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OCCURRENCE AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES.

At the Tenth Annual Conference of State and Territorial Health Authorities with the United States Public Health Service, held in Washington, June 1, 1912, a resolution was presented by the conference committee on morbidity reports and adopted by the conference. The purpose of the resolution was to provide a means by which current information regarding the occurrence and geographic distribution of the diseases with which health authorities are concerned might be available to the various authorities. The provisions of the resolution embody a cooperative plan whereby the various State health authorities report the occurrence of disease to the Bureau of the Public Health Service, which thus will serve as a clearing house for these reports and will publish them currently in the Public Health Reports for the information and guidance of the various authorities. Provision was made for the telegraphic report to the Public Health Service of the occurrence of cases of certain exotic or unusual diseases, such as plague, cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever, and Rocky Mountain spotted or tick fever; also for the telegraphic report of outbreaks and epidemics of the commoner epidemic diseases, such as smallpox, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, and others, and for monthly reports of all diseases notifiable in the respective States. This will give current information of the prevalence of disease, a matter of fundamental importance in all public health administration, in so far as the data are available through the operation of morbidity reports. The director of the epidemiological division of the Minnesota State Board of Health, Dr. A. J. Chesley, has forwarded reports for the period intervening between the adoption of the resolution, June 1, and the end of October. Certain other States have forwarded reports for the month of October. These will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Public Health Reports. Reports received in the future will be published currently as received.

ANTIMALARIAL MEASURES FOR FARMHOUSES AND PLANTATIONS.

By HENRY R. CARTER, Senior Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

Malaria is essentially a rural disease. It is found in towns only as they approach rural conditions—that is, in small towns and in the suburbs of large cities—not in the bodies of large cities. It is for this reason that the consideration of antimalarial measures specially applicable for farmhouses and plantations is of interest.

As is known, the direct cause of malarial fever is the presence of an animal parasite in the blood of the man developing it. This parasite is, in nature, introduced into the blood by the bite of a certain kind of mosquito, which has been rendered infective by biting a man himself infected with malarial parasites, and only thus is it introduced.

There are certain conditions necessary for infection. Let us note them, as they will show us what to guard against. To become infected with malarial fever it is necessary:

(1) *To be bitten by a certain kind of mosquito.*—Only mosquitoes of the genus Anophelina—and not all species of that genus—are con-